



# EPA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is one of 10 federal agencies that participate in the SBIR Program established by the Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982. The purpose of this Act was to strengthen the role of small businesses in federally funded R&D and help develop a stronger national base for technical innovation. **A small business is defined as a for profit organization with no more than 500 employees.** In addition, the small business must be independently owned and operated, not dominant in the field of operation in which it is proposing, and have its principal place of business located in the United States. Joint ventures and limited partnerships are eligible for SBIR awards, provided the entity created qualifies as a small business.

EPA issues annual solicitations for Phase I and Phase II research proposals from science and technology-based firms. EPA uses this phased approach to help determine whether the research idea, often on high-risk advanced concepts, is technically feasible, whether the firm can do high-quality research, and whether sufficient progress has been made to justify a larger Phase II effort. Research topics include nanotechnology and pollution prevention, water and air pollution control, management of solid and hazardous waste, environmental monitoring and measurement and bioterrorism detection and decontamination.

Under Phase I, the scientific merit and technical feasibility of the proposed concept is investigated. EPA plans to award firm-fixed-price Phase I contracts of **\$80,000** with up to 10 months performance periods. Phase II contracts are limited to small businesses that have successfully completed Phase I. The objective of Phase II is to further develop and commercialize the concept proven feasible in Phase I. Competitive awards are based on the results of Phase I, the Phase II workplan and the commercialization potential of the Phase II technology. EPA plans to conduct the Phase II solicitation during Phase I and award Phase II contracts of **\$225,000** or **\$325,000** at the end of the Phase I contract period.

**EPA's next Phase I Solicitation will open on March 27, 2003 and will close on May 23, 2003.** The Phase I SBIR Solicitation will be posted on the National Center for Environmental Research WEBSITE at:

**<http://www.epa.gov/ncer/sbir>**

Please note that last year's Phase I solicitation is still on the WEBSITE for informational purposes only. The solicitation includes a description of the program and typical research topic areas. This solicitation is also available by fax. If you need a fax copy of last year's solicitation or if you have any questions, please call the SBIR Helpline at:

**1-800-490-9194**

